

Appl. No. 09/698,728
Amdt. Dated July 13, 2004
Reply to Office action of April 20, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P12994-US1
EUS/J/P/04-2042

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Amendments

Claims 9, 12, 14 and 17 have been amended, and claims 1-8, 11, 13, 16 and 18 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 9-10, 12, 14-15 and 17 remain pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 9 for a typographical error. The Applicants have amended claim 9 to correct the error.

3.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 13 and 18 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but indicated such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

In accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, the Applicants have amended independent claim 9 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 13 and intervening claim 11, and amended independent claim 14 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 18 and intervening claim 16. Accordingly, independent claims 9 and 14 are now allowable. Furthermore, whereas claims 10 and 12 are dependent from claim 9 and claims 15 and 17 are dependent from claim 14, and

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include the limitations of their respective base claims, those claims are also now allowable.

4.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 and 14-17 as being unpatentable over Applicants Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter AAPA) in view of either one of "The Concept of Virtual Paths and Virtual Channels in ATM-Networks" by Schneider (1990, hereinafter Schneider) or EP 910224 issued to Nishikado. In view of the cancellation of claims 1-8 and the amendment of claims 9 and 14 to include the allowable subject matter of claims 13 and 18, respectively, the Examiner's rejection is moot.

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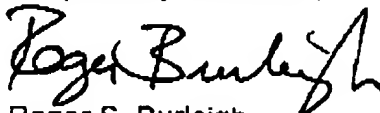
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 9-10, 12, 14-15 and 17.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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